

**DEFINITION**

1. **Pemphigoid** is a blistering disease affecting the skin (**bullous pemphigoid**) or mucous membranes (**benign mucosal** or **cicatricial pemphigoid**).

**CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS**

2. **Bullous pemphigoid** presents as an itchy (pruritic) erythema, often urticarial, with development of large tense bullae, particularly on the flexural aspects of the limbs. After a few days the blisters burst and healing usually occurs.
3. **Benign mucosal pemphigoid** affects the mucous membranes of the mouth, the genitalia, and the corneae and conjunctivae. The lesions resemble those of bullous pemphigoid and indeed there may be some associated skin lesions. Scarring of the corneae and conjunctivae may seriously affect vision.

**AETIOLOGY**

4. **Pemphigoid** is mostly confined to the elderly and has an equal sex incidence.
5. The condition is an autoimmune disorder although the precise pathophysiology is poorly understood. Autoimmune diseases are those in which the body reacts against its own constituents.
6. Genetic factors are important. These may be solely responsible or may merely create a predisposition in which the body then reacts to an external factor, thus leading to the autoimmune response.
7. External factors which interact with a genetic predisposition are infection (especially viral) and drugs.

**CONCLUSION**

8. **Pemphigoid** is a blistering disease affecting the skin and mucous membranes. It is an autoimmune disorder.

**REFERENCES**

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